

ASIAN COALITION OUTREACH ACTIVITIES A SUCCESS



The Los Angeles Asian Client Coalition (LAACC) has, as part of its mission, outreach to Asian communities to offer information about mental health and mental health advocacy issues.

On February 16 and 17, LAACC members hosted a table at the Chinese New Year Festival. And on March 15, the group hosted training for API clients, staff and community members at the California Endowment. As Ray Kaneko, Vice Chair of the Coalition stated: "Outreach is very important in the Asian community, and more outreach has to be done to educate the Asian community about mental illness and the help that is available."



The LAACC also believes in the value of educating API consumers about issues affecting their lives. In the Advocacy and Leadership training on March 15, attendees, many of whom were from the API Leadership Council, explored two topics. The focus of the morning session was on how to do legislative advocacy,

and the presenter was Susan Rajlal, legislative analyst for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. The afternoon presenter was Myron Quon, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse. He discussed Asian communication styles and the reasons why it is important that mental health professionals be culturally competent.

Ray Kaneko and Nami Roberts, chair of the Asian Coalition, co-hosted the training and participated in a panel of the LAACC officers speaking of their stories of recovery and resiliency. The group is planning to attend the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival and other local events in order to encourage people from the Japanese-American community to utilize the mental health services that are available and to combat the stigma that often keeps people from API communities from seeking mental health services.

